

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171604

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DA, KS, NO,SW

SUBJECT: DANISH AND OTHER SCANDINAVIAN REPRESENTATIONS ON
STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA

1. PETER DYVIG, MINISTER DANISH EMBASSY, CALLED ON RANARD (EA/K) ON OWN INITIATIVE AUGUST 5 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OF HIS GOVERNMENT REGARDING INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN KOREA, AS WELL AS TO INQUIRE REGARDING U.S. VIEWS. HE SAID THAT AT BEGINNING OF AUGUST DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD CALLED IN KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN REGARDING DEATH PENALTIES EMERGING FROM RECENT TRIALS AND TO REQUEST CLEMENCY FOR THOSE SENTENCED. NORWEGIANS HAD FOLLOWED SUIT AND SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME HAD APPARENTLY SENT A CABLED APPEAL TO PARK CHUNG HEE.

2. REFERRING TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE JULY 24 AND HUMMEL'S STATEMENT BEFORE FRASER-NIX HEARINGS, RANARD SAID THAT, WHILE U.S. WAS DISTRESSED AT APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND AT SEVERITY OF PENALTIES,
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OUR SECURITY CONCERNS WERE FUNDAMENTAL. DYVIG WAS AWARE

OF FRASER-NIX HEARINGS AND FOLLOWED ON WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING BACKGROUND TO HEARINGS AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY THAT CONGRESS WOULD CUT AID BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN KOREA. POINTING OUT THAT WE NEVER HEAR OF PUBLIC COMPLAINTS OF APPEALS ABOUT CONDITIONS IN NORTH

KOREA, RANARD EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF QUIET DIPLOMACY. HE EXPLAINED STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO MAKE KOREANS AWARE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS THEY ARE CAUSING IN U.S. HE STATED HE THOUGHT THAT AMERICAN REACTIONS HAD ALREADY RESULTED IN SOME COMMUTATIONS OF DEATH PENALTIES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND FURTHER. KISSINGER

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